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KEPT BILL FROM COMING TO A VOTE

**DID THE MINORITY IN THE SENATE, WHEN
COMMANDED BY MR. HARRIS TO "NEVER
LET THIS BILL SEE DAYLIGHT AGAIN."**

"I have never yet seen a reason for looking into the I. I. Fund," shouted Senator Harris (Mr. Adams in the chair), as he led the minority of the Senate yesterday in a frantic attempt to keep the House bill providing for a commission to continue the investigation into the records of the I. I. Trustees from passing as amended.

"I don't believe that there is a dollar missing," he continued. "I don't believe that anything wrong will be found except that some land has been sold for less than its value."

This outburst came because of an amendment by Senator Hudson reading as follows and taking the place of "report to the Legislature," in the bill:

"And proceed with all possible dispatch. The said Commission, upon completion of the investigation herein provided for, shall file with the Governor a full and complete report of all the acts and findings of said Commission; and if within thirty days thereafter the Legislature shall meet in regular session or in special session, with authority to consider and act upon such report, the said report shall be laid before the Legislature; but if there shall be no such session of the Legislature within thirty days as aforesaid, the Governor shall, at the expiration of said thirty days, cause the said report to be made public."

The amendment was adopted by a vote of 20 yeas to 12 nays.

Yeas—Senators Alford, Baker, Canova, Clarke, Cottrell, Cone, Crane, Crews, Davis, Girardeau, Hudson, Jackson, Leggett, Massey, Neel, Trammell, Withers, West (1st), West (4th), Zim—20.

Nays—Mr. President, Senators Adams, Beard, Broome, Buckman, Crill, Henderson, Humphries, Johnson, McCreary, Sams, Willis—12.

Then the language fireworks of Senator Harris were displayed for a reconsideration of the vote.

Commending and commanding his trusted minority to stand firm, he ran head first against the same old wall that he has tried to indent before, the motion being lost.

Mr. Massey offered an amendment that the Commission be empowered to summon and examine witnesses and administer oaths, also providing against the employment of counsel.

"This looks suspicious to me," insisted Mr. Harris. "It looks to me as though a mandate had been sent out from certain quarters demanding this."

"It looks to me like a scheme to call an extra session."

"That would be worse than criminal," added Mr. Harris.

Mr. Massey said: "I am just as much opposed to calling an extra session as the Senator from the Twenty-fourth, and that is why I urge the passage of these amendments."

Excitedly did Mr. Harris say: "This law will be construed by the Executive as a direction to call an extra session."

In frantic frenzy he yelled: "I challenge the majority to force this on the Senate."

"It'll take a two-thirds vote, and they haven't got it if you twelve will stick together."

"I call on you to stick together, and keep this bill from ever seeing daylight," he demanded in furious tones.

"Stand together like you have and you will never consider this bill. It will be put away for ever," commanded Senator Harris.

"There is nothing in the amendments to cause an extra session," said Senator Trammell, while Senator Beard said:

"I believe if the bill is killed it will facilitate the calling of an extra session."

Mr. Massey's amendment was adopted by a vote of 18 yeas to 9 nays.

Mr. Hudson then moved to reconsider the vote by which his amendment had passed, saying that he had offered the amendment in good faith, and with the intent that it would avoid the calling of an extra session.

He stated that he was astonished at the furor it had caused, because he believed in its merit.

His motion to reconsider was agreed to, and then he asked permission to withdraw the amendment, which was granted.

Mr. Massey moved that the rules be waived and the bill put on its passage.

This motion brought another storm from Mr. Harris and admonition to his minority to stick together and prevent the two-thirds vote necessary to suspend the rules.

The minority was successful in keeping the bill from seeing daylight, as the vote was 18 yeas and 11 nays.

Yeas—Senators Baker, Canova, Clarke, Cone, Cottrell, Crane, Crews, Davis, Girardeau, Hudson, Jackson, Leggett, Massey, Neel, Trammell, Withers, West (4th), Zim—18.

Nays—Mr. President, Senators Adams, Alford, Beard, Broome, Crill, Henderson, Johnson, McCreary, Sams, Willis—11.

Thus the bill was held up and the work of investigation halted, unless some way is found to get the bill before the Senate.

Senator Adams, explaining his vote against waiving the rules, said that it would discharge the present members of the committee, whom he considered were doing their duty. He could see no reason for such discharge, and

PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT HARRIS.

President Harris was presented with a handsome silver pitcher and tray by the Senators and attaches of the Senate last night, in token of their esteem and as a testimonial of their appreciation of his conduct as a presiding officer.

Speeches were made by Senators Trammell, Adams, Willis, Cone, Hudson, Buckman, Crane, West (4th), Beard, Henderson and Johnson on behalf of the Senate while Mr. Worth Trammell and Capt. J. A. Cox spoke for the attaches.

Capt. Cox paid high tribute to the father of President Harris, who had been his college mate, and who had attained distinction as an officer in the Confederate army.

TURNUED DOWN THIS FAIR BILL.

The House yesterday refused to pass the fair bill of Mr. Milliner of Madison, calling for an appropriation of \$15,000 for the Middle Florida Fair at DeFuniak.

FOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The House yesterday passed the Senate bill creating a Geological Survey, and making an appropriation of \$7,500 a year for its maintenance.

therefore voted against permitting the bill to come up for passage.

The clause to which Senator Adams objected was the adoption of an amendment by Mr. Massey, providing that three members of the Senate and four of the House be elected to form the Commission.

This was opposed by Mr. Willis.

He declared opposition to the election of new members of the committee on the ground that they would have to go over the same matters that the old committee had looked into, in order to become informed.

Mr. Girardeau: "I understand that the committee knows nothing."

Mr. Willis: "It would be a waste of the money spent."

Mr. Girardeau: "It is already wasted."

Senator Massey here declared that "one hour of the Legislature costs \$150, and I don't want waste of the time charged up to me;" and then he briefly spoke in behalf of the amendment.

Mr. Adams, who opposed the amendment to the bill, said that he was opposed to an extra session and did not want that to be put on the Senate.

He said: "I feel that the House of Representatives acted wisely in passing this bill, and that all want this investigation. The people as well want it, and I feel that this investigation should be continued."

He continued: "but the object of this investigation seems to be general, and the only interest I have in the matter. But I am opposed to anything tending to an extra session of the Legislature."

The Joint Investigating Committee held a meeting last night, and it was stated that a report would be rendered to the Legislature this morning.

With this report before the Senate, indications are that effort will be made to stop further investigation.

Why this investigation should be stopped is not apparent.

That is, not apparent to the public generally.

When the Senate was first convened the spirit of investigation was rampant.

That the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund must and should be investigated was the overpowering sentiment.

The Governor coincided with this feeling and invited the Legislature to investigate not only the Trustees, but also examine other persons who had made allegations of wrong-doing.

After a long wrangle between the House and the Senate over the wording of the resolution which would start this investigation, a joint committee was appointed and the probing into the records of the fund was begun.

This work has been carried on since April 22, at a cost exceeding \$55 a day, and no report has ever been furnished the Senate as to what has been done, and the report extracted by the House gave no information.

Nothing has been told the public.

Since the convening of the Senate the eagerness to muckrake has oozed away.

A minority, headed by Senator Harris, seems determined to prevent further investigation.

Why such position has been taken has not been publicly stated.

At any rate, the opposition has developed, and yesterday afternoon fought to a standstill, the effort to waive the rules and pass House Bill No. 566, "to create a commission for the investigation of the acts and doings of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund; defining its duties and powers, and making appropriations for carrying out the provisions of the same."

This bill was drawn to continue the work of the joint committee, which had stated that it would be impossible to finish the investigation and report its findings during the regular session of the Legislature.

When the bill was taken up Senator Beard offered an amendment, fixing the date of beginning the investigation at January 1, 1877. His reason for this date was that nothing could be learned prior to that time that would be of value to the State at the present time, because of the Civil War and the carpet-bag government which followed.

The amendment was lost.

The majority seeming willing that all should be investigated.

The minority, for some reason, are unwilling to go back farther than the eight or nine years that the joint committee has supposed to have investigated.

CAPITAL REMOVAL BILL FAILS TO PASS

**BUT ADVOCATES OF MEASURE ASSERT THAT IT
WILL BE BUT SHORT TIME BEFORE STATE
HOUSE WILL BE REMOVED UNDER POPULAR
DEMAND.**

Squeezing the squills of his sarcasm in the face of the House last night, Representative Carter of Alachua proclaimed that it was only a matter of time before the Capital would be removed from Tallahassee; it didn't matter if the question was voted down at this time; the question would not down, and it would never be settled until the State House found location at some point east of the Suwannee.

The debate on the bill of Mr. DuPont providing that the question should be submitted to the people at the next general election continued through the three sessions yesterday. It was first called up shortly before adjournment for noon and was pending upon adjournment; the special order was taken up in the afternoon, and the bill was called up again by the gentleman from St. Johns under the roll call by counties. Mr. Wells of Leon, who opposed the bill, managed to get the floor and held it until adjournment for the night session, and at night the bill was again called up by Mr. DuPont.

Mr. Wells attempted to laugh the bill out of the House by saying that it was introduced as a joke—"As a chicken getter, Mr. Speaker, merely as a chicken getter." This, in the picturesque language of the Representative from Leon, upon being interrupted, is said to mean that the fare at the boarding houses was not all that the members desired, and the bill was intended as a stimulus to better please the epicurean longings of the members.

"Well (not Wells), if it was intended as a chicken getter it has been a miserable failure," quoth Mr. DuPont.

"Nay, say not so," interpolated Mr. Carter, "They've had chicken at my hash house twice since that bill was introduced. I tell you it has put these people to thinking."

Mr. Carter and Mr. MacWilliams spoke at length in favor of removal. Mr. Carter said it was not a matter of sentiment, but purely a business consideration; the eastern section of the State and the southern section were growing rapidly and offered the centers of the State's population. It would be more convenient for the greater number of the people to have the Capital elsewhere, and just as convenient for the others. Mr. Carter contended that the Capital was inconvenient to both sections.

From the western section, Mr. MacWilliams said he would wake up at the State Capital in the eastern portion of the State than it was at present to reach Tallahassee at 3 o'clock in the morning and find a few lame backs waiting at the station. Furthermore, said Mr. Carter, the people of Tallahassee didn't appreciate the State Capital because no effort was made to meet the demands levied by its location here. The gentleman from Alachua said that he had met men worth thousands on the streets in the early morning who had been unable to get lodging the night before.

"And if we move the Capital we promise you that we won't put the Governor's mansion on a back street—"

Mr. Wells—Do you mean to charge that the people of Tallahassee are responsible for that? They are not responsible for it; the Board of State Institutions and the Governor's Mansion Commission selected that site against the will of ninety-five per cent of the people of Tallahassee; the people of Tallahassee had no more to do with it than you did."

Mr. Carter—Well, whatever board did it should be abolished.

In his argument for the measure Mr. MacWilliams declared the time had come when the matter must be decided; that four-fifths of the white population lived east of the Suwannee; it would be more accessible to more people, and this right could not be ignored. "This is uncontradictable—" (Here Mr. MacWilliams asked his colleague, DuPont, sotto voice, if that was a good word.)

"Fine," whispered DuPont. "I use that sometimes myself."

But the bill failed to pass; the vote was 33 to 14.

LEGISLATURE ACTED ON GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION.

Both houses yesterday passed a bill in accordance with the recommendations of the Governor that no appropriations should be paid out by the authorized official of the State until it was first ascertained if the money was available for such purposes. The appropriations for current educational purposes and the current expenses of the State were excepted from this provision.

The intent of the measure is to prevent the State from going on a scrip basis, as would be the case if the appropriations were made available upon the approval of the acts by the Governor.

COLLEGE CLAIM BILL FAILS TO PASS.

More than an hour was given last night in the House to the consideration of a relief bill to reimburse Miss Abernethy of the female college faculty for a number of paintings lost in the recent dormitory fire. The claim was for \$2,500; the bill was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 22 to 24.

The collection, it was stated, had been used by the college upon request of the faculty and was transferred to the college buildings for that purpose; upon this ground relief was asked. The discussion between the members was heated and at times personal, and proved entertaining.